

## Death with Dignity Act 2

546 U.S. 243 (2006)

**GONZALES, ATTORNEY GENERAL, ET AL.  
v.  
OREGON ET AL.**

[No. 04-623.](#)

**Supreme Court of United States.**

Argued October 5, 2005.  
Decided January 17, 2006.

The question before us is whether the Controlled Substances Act allows the United States Attorney General to \*249 prohibit doctors from prescribing regulated drugs for use in physician-assisted suicide, notwithstanding a state law permitting the procedure. As the Court has observed, "Americans are engaged in an earnest and profound debate about the morality, legality, and practicality of physician-assisted suicide." [Washington v. Glucksberg, 521 U.S. 702, 735 \(1997\)](#). The dispute before us is in part a product of this political and moral debate, but its resolution requires an inquiry familiar to the courts: interpreting a federal statute to determine whether executive action is authorized by, or otherwise consistent with, the enactment.

In 1994, Oregon became the first State to legalize assisted suicide when voters approved a ballot measure enacting the Oregon Death With Dignity Act (ODWDA). Ore. Rev. Stat. § 127.800 *et seq.* (2003). ODWDA, which survived a 1997 ballot measure seeking its repeal, exempts from civil or criminal liability state-licensed physicians who, in compliance with the specific safeguards in ODWDA, dispense or prescribe a lethal dose of drugs upon the request of a terminally ill patient.

Voters in Colorado overwhelmingly passed Proposition 106 with a clear 64.6% in favor to 35.4% not in favor.[1] Proposition 106, more commonly known as the "End of Life Options Act," now gives eligibility for self-administered aid-in-dying medication to terminally ill Coloradans, provided they only have six months or less to live and that they are mentally competent.[2] Colorado is now the sixth in the United States to sanction physician-assisted suicide for terminally ill citizens, joining Oregon, Washington, California, Montana, and Vermont.[3]

# Framing Death: The Use of Frames in Newspaper Coverage of and Press Releases about Death with Dignity(5/9/2006)

Since passing its Death with Dignity Act into law in 1997, Oregon remains the only state in America to make physician-assisted suicide an explicit legal right. Currently, the legality of physician-assisted suicide falls under the jurisdiction of each individual state. Had the United States Supreme Court ruled differently in a recent case, however, the issue would have transferred to federal jurisdiction.

May 2, 2023  
U.S.

## Vermont Removes Residency Requirement for Medically Assisted Deaths

The change, signed into law by the state's governor, followed a legal challenge brought by a 75-year-old Connecticut resident.

By Livia Albeck-Ripka

## CANADA

## Canada Delays Plan to Offer Medically Assisted Death to the Mentally Ill

A parliamentary panel concluded that there are not enough doctors, particularly psychiatrists, in the country to properly assess patients.

By Ian Austen

PRINT EDITION January 30, 2024

Dec. 27, 2023  
CANADA

## Death by Doctor May Soon Be Available for the Mentally Ill in Canada

The country is divided over a law that would allow patients suffering from mental health illnesses to apply for assisted death.

By Vjosa Isai

PRINT EDITION Assisted Death For Mentally Ill Divides Canada | December 28, 2023, Page A1

**Medical aid in dying is still called 'assisted suicide.' An anthropologist explains the problem with that**

- Anita Hannig, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Brandeis University
- Jul 10, 2022

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